

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

# Mao, Dulles Play Brinkmanship

Jack Anderson, Drew Pearson's assistant, has been on a news-gathering trip through the Far East. Today he reports from troubled Formosa.

By Jack Anderson

TAIPEI, Formosa — From this ringside seat, Mao Tse-tung and John Foster Dulles appear to be playing a grim game of brinkmanship in the Formosa Strait. Apparently the object is to see who can come closer to the brink of war without plunging over the awful precipice.



This is borne out by a confidential report that Mao threw Dulles' name up to Nikita Khrushchev when the two Communist dictators met in Peking last month. Mao reportedly chided his Kremlin comrade for letting Dulles bluff him away from the brink in the Middle East.

Communist diplomacy should not be afraid, Mao said, to look the cannon in the muzzle. He suggested slyly that Khrushchev may have been lulled by his own peace propaganda and urged that they steel Communist discipline to face war risks.

The paunchy Chinese Czar saw no advantage in relaxing world tension and no purpose in holding summit meetings except as a propaganda device to make the West appear responsible for the cold war, the confidential report claims.

The next time they met Dulles at the brink, Mao reportedly advised, they should take one more step and let Dulles be the one to turn away from war.

It now appears that the wily Chinese Red may have precipitated the Quemoy-Matsu crisis to test out his strategy. If this is the case, it remains to be seen whether Mao or Dulles will turn aside first.

Note: Some American observers believe Mao may be trying to maneuver us into using atomic weapons against him. This would give him an excuse to demand atomic bombs from the Russians who

are reluctant to share their nuclear power with Red China. It would also set a precedent for using nuclear weapons in limited wars and put the onus on the United States.

## Formosa Flashes

CHIANG KAI-SHEK has warned President Eisenhower that his keep-'em-guessing policy is a mistake. The only way to avert war in the Formosa Strait, Chiang argued, is for Washington to issue a clear warning that American forces will help defend Quemoy and Matsu. Any doubt may tempt the Chinese Communists to attack, he wrote . . . Nationalist pilots, flying F-86 Sabrejets, have held their own against superior MIG-17s in air clashes over the Chinese mainland.

The Chinese Communists appear to be flying their own planes, not using Russian pilots as they often did in Korea. The Nationalist fliers, however, are far more experienced. In fact, American observers claim that Nationalist fighter pilots are better than our own . . . Admiral Liu Hsiang-shan, Nationalist military spokesman, has made so many public boasts claiming air supremacy that observers believe the Communists were provoked into challenging Chiang's air force.

Japanese Premier Nobusuke Kishi is itching to counter Red China's economic offensive in the Far East. Kishi's idea is to tie the free countries of Asia together with economic agreements that will freeze out the Reds. Japan will throw her growing industrial strength and technical know-how into the battle against Chinese Communist economic penetration.

## Missiles to China

Ominous reports have reached here of Soviet missile shipments to Communist China. specially-designed railroad cars. These cars, reportedly twice as big as ordinary railway cars, are being used to haul missiles from Russia to China over the Trans-Siberian Railway . . . The Nationalists discount other intelligence reports that Red China has already received atomic weapons from Russia. The Soviets don't want to build up China as a nuclear power.

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might some day turn on the master. . . .

This is one issue still dividing the Moscow-Peking alliance. Some American diplomats would like to explore the possibility of exploiting such differences to drive a wedge between the two great Communist powers. However, Assistant Secretary Walter Robertson, who mans the State Department's Far Eastern desk, won't listen to any suggestions that might lead to possible recognition of Red China . . . Chiang Kai-shek has been granted special powers to close down newspapers without a trial for criticizing his government. This could hurt his friend, Senator "Bill" Knowland, who is running for Governor of California. Knowland happens to be publisher of a great newspaper, the Oakland Tribune.

## Local Color

The worst drought in 50 years has forced Taipei to close down air-conditioning systems which are water-cooled . . . Red-bombarded Matsu Island is understandably short of schoolteachers. Ten teachers were granted summer leave to visit Formosa. Now they are refusing to return to their pupils who are studying amid bursting artillery shells.

Note to Drew Pearson: Madame Chiang Kai-shek has written to friends on Formosa that General Nathan Twining, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, sent an Air Force plane all the way from Washington to New Orleans to pick her up after her recent visit